



the RARA RAG

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NO. 2

How to make a DX station want another W2 QSL Card!

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY
Vice-President, RARA

Some things are believable and others are not. When you are talking with friends, even family and co-workers, they may not understand that international ham communications can be an everyday event. "I talked to a guy in Japan," (and they may think, OK, uh huh) " and */HERE's the post card he sent me/*." Now they can not quibble about it or doubt your veracity. The same applies when going after awards. Other than just being a collector, the only reason I can think that anyone would collect QSL cards would be for chasing awards, and the QSL's are the proof.

WB2SXY, who has DXCC, WAS (cw & ssb) FISTS and FISTS Century Club, Silver and Platinum awards, will discuss chasing QSL cards: where to go after them, how to have the DX ops want to QSL you, and what it may cost. I am not really sure a DX station wants another W2 card but I may want his rare one, so how can I entice him to respond?

In addition there will be an "Oldest QSL Card" contest (Ham QSO's only). So bring in your oldest QSL Card and if you have the oldest you will receive a fist full of IRC's. The oldest SWL QSL card will also receive an award.

The RARA General Membership meeting will be held October 7, 2005, 7:30 PM at the Henrietta Fire Hall, on the corner of Lehigh Station and East Henrietta Roads.

RARA e-mail reflector

By George Masny, KA2GPJ

If you have visited the RARA web site on the Internet, you probably noticed "e-Mail Reflector" buried among the many options. Well... It's not the longest element of a tribander nor used as a bat to swat SPAM. An e-mail reflector is a program that acts as the forwarding broadcaster of e-mail messages to the names on a distribution list. Here's how it works:

1. One member of the distribution list composes an e-mail message or replies to one.
2. The user sends the message to the e-mail reflector (which to the user usually appears to be name of the list itself).
3. The e-mail reflector receives the message and automatically forwards a copy to each person on the distribution list.

The advantage of using an e-mail reflector is that the distribution list can be centrally managed so that everyone will always have the most up-to-date version.

So what does this do for you? It is a very efficient way to keep in touch with RARA people. An email reflector will keep you informed of all the latest developments. It is self administered. YOU control when and how you receive messages. The messages are screened to prevent off topic items. The RARA Rag comes out once a month - the reflector can be used at any time there's something worth sharing with the membership. In addition, the email addresses are private... not distributed to anyone!

So next time you visit the RARA Web Site at <http://www.rochesterham.org/> don't forget to sign up! Click on the e-Mail Reflector option and follow the Sign Up Instructions!

RaRa Meeting
October 7, 2005 7:30 PM.
Henrietta Fire Company #1
3129 East Henrietta Road
How to make a DX Station
want another W2 QSL Card
by Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY

SILENT KEYS

David B. Molz, KB2NFS
May 11, 2005
Donald E. Peters, W2ELK
September 16, 2005

the RARA RAG

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The Prez Sez

By Dick Goslee, KG2I
President, RARA

Our 2005-2006 season is now in full swing. The September regular meeting was a big success and from the comments I heard you liked the shortened business meeting. That will continue for all future meetings. I would like to apologize for the parking snafu at the first meeting. There was a small miscommunication between RARA and our hosts. They forgot we meet on the second Friday in September, not the first. They figured there would be no problem paving the parking lot on the second Friday. Well we survived and just think, no more mud in the Winter and Spring. The upgraded lot is a welcome addition to the facilities.

The License Classes are now in full swing with students studying for each of the three classes of license that are available today. We will be offering a second session in the Spring for those of you who couldn't make the Fall session. We are also thinking of trying a shortened, more concentrated schedule. It would consist of about 4 Saturday sessions of 3 hours each. This would still give you the same amount of class time but over a shorter period of time. The Saturday classes would also be easier on those who can't make the evening classes. We would appreciate your comments on this idea. Please contact our Education Chairman, Peter Fournia, W2SKY with your thoughts. He can be reached at pfournia@rochester.rr.com or talk to him at any regular monthly meeting.

The License Testing program is still not up and running as this issue goes to print (mid September) but we are working very hard to get a program in place as soon as possible. Check the RARA Web Site at: www.rochesterham.org for the latest information, or call the RARA Hotline at (585) 442-0587 for news.

The delay in the License Testing program is in finding someone to be the Lead VE for the testing group. If you are interested in performing this function, or if you know someone who would be interested I would appreciate hearing from you. My phone number and e-mail address are listed at the top of the left column on this page.

RARA is also looking at restarting our "K2JD Engraving Team" again. For years the team made call sign badges and hats at the various Hamfests in Western New York and we feel it is time to start doing that again. If you would be interested in working on the team or being the team leader please contact me and we can discuss the details.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting on Oct 7th, and start planning for the "Auction" in November.

ARRL Atlantic Division Director Elections

The ballots for the election will be mailed by the League about October 1st to all members in the division as of September 16th and the ballots must be returned to the League by November 18th. If you are a member and you don't receive a ballot by October 20th you should contact ARRL Headquarters and request a ballot.

Because of our tax exempt status and our affiliation with the League, RARA cannot make any recommendations of a political nature. We do however encourage all ARRL members to become familiar with the candidates and then be sure to send in your ballots.

Below you will find statements prepared by the two candidates themselves. These statements have not been edited in any way.

Bill Edgar, N3LLR

The Atlantic Division should have a team with a proven record of service to the League and to you, the members. Both Tom Abernethy W3TOM and I are running as a team. I am a candidate for the Atlantic Division Director position and Tom is a candidate for the Atlantic Division Vice Director position.

It has been my privilege to serve as Atlantic Division Vice Director for the past five years, building the experience needed to represent you effectively on the ARRL Board. Tom has served as the Maryland/DC Section Manager – he is still serving in that position.

I strongly believe that our Director must have experience in the ARRL's Field Organization and other volunteer programs. I have served as the Western Pennsylvania Section Manager, Section Emergency Coordinator, District Emergency Coordinator, Emergency Coordinator, Official Observer, and Public Information Officer. I am a Volunteer Examiner. I have taught licensing classes, instructed emergency communications classes, and served as a mentor for all levels of the ARRL ARECC emergency communications courses.

I have leadership experience in other membership organizations, which rely on volunteers. I have been a board member and Chapter Chair for my local Red Cross Chapter and am currently a board member of the local Boy Scout Council.

Because I believe it is essential for ARRL officials to stay in personal touch with the membership, I have traveled throughout the

Division to club meetings, hamfests, and conventions.

Keeping the League financially sound is a key Board responsibility. I am a finance executive at an international company and have served on local and national trade group committees and boards.

I hold the Amateur Extra license and enjoy contesting, DXing, and public service communications.

The Director's job is not to push a personal agenda, but to listen to what you think and represent your views to the ARRL Board. I will represent all our Division's members, not just a few special-interest groups.

Tom and I look to serve the Atlantic Division members as active and committed leaders. Our division has had a strong Director in Bernie Fuller N3EFN, which whom I have worked closely. I will continue the same quality of leadership.

Our campaign website is: www.bestvote.org We have a list of endorsements listed in the website. We humbly ask for the opportunity to serve you, please vote for Bill Edgar N3LLR for Director and Tom Abernethy W3TOM for Vice Director.

Scott Bauer, W2LC

As Section Manager (6 years) I have led the WNY Field Organization consisting of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, National Traffic System, Official Observer program and other appointed volunteers. I am a community leader on the board of directors of the Baldwinsville youth softball and baseball organization. I coach both girls softball and boys baseball. As an electrical engineer I have responsibility for multi-million dollar electronic hardware developments for a major corporation in Syracuse.

I was originally licensed as WN2LCC in 1969, became WA2LCC upon upgrading and obtained the vanity callsign W2LC in 1996. I operate FM, SSB and CW on all bands from 160 meters through 70cm. I am active on-the-air and will continue actively operating when Director. My memberships include the ARRL, QCWA, RDXA (past President), Rochester VHF Group, and the Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse. I am a past member of RAWNY and the RARA.

ARRL members deserve to be kept informed of major changes proposed by the Board of Directors. As Division Director I will keep the division membership and Section Managers informed of major board proposals, such as changes to the content in QST and changes to membership services.

(continued on page 4)

All Amateurs deserve the attention of the Division Director on matters involving FCC rules changes proposed by the ARRL BOD, as rules changes impact all Amateurs and not just ARRL members. I encourage non-ARRL members to contact me as Division Director to express their concerns.

I will represent all Amateur Radio operators in the Atlantic Division regardless of your interests, class of license or the mode you prefer to operate. The strength of Amateur Radio is in its diversity. As Director I will promote all of Amateur Radio for the good of the service and the hobby.

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, October 1985

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian

The program then was a presentation on ARES and RACES, what they are and how they differ, by RACES Director Ed Holdsworth, N2EH and Assistant Radio Officer Ed Gable, K2MP. The venue was the 40/8 Club on University Avenue where George Muller, WA2IEO, was serving refreshments, Howie Davies, N2CUN, offering the door prizes and Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU, Membership Chair, was graciously accepting your dues money.

Ed Kohl, WA2UBD, wrote in this issue inviting all campers to the last RaRa camping trip for the year held at the Canandaigua KOA. Fred Gern, KB2SE, (sk) authored an interesting article announcing a joint venture between RaRa and the Rochester DX Association (RDXA). The RDXA will operate the RaRa Club station, K2JD, as a multi-single entry in the CQ World-Wide DX contest. The "Multi" operators were any RaRa members who wished to learn about DX contesting and to get some actual operating time. RaRa members were further invited to attend RDXA meetings held monthly at the Colonial Restaurant on Empire Blvd. Ed, K2MP, in his *20 Year Article* reported that Vic Lotempio, W2RIS, announced the opening of a new amateur radio section at Rochester Radio Supply (1965).

A RaRa announcement told of a pending Home Brew Contest, in three categories, to be held at a future meeting. RRRA penned an article defining and detailing how to use the Fuzz Buzz (911) system on the N2JC/R 28/88 repeater. Todd Ellis, KS2Z, writing for the Rochester VHF Group, invited all area hams to join in local VHF operations and to look into the activities of the RVHFG. It was further reported that RVHFG

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member Frank Polino, K2OS, earned 144 MHz WAS #74.

Commercial Communications of Lancaster, NY, was a relatively new advertiser. From the Want Ads you could buy a SB-200 Linear from Chuck Brelsford, K2WW, for \$300.00

RDXA October Meeting

By David Wright, N2CK

The next meeting of the RDXA will be held at 7:30 PM on October 18, 2005. The location is at Gander Mountain, 300 Jay Scutti Blvd. In Henrietta. The topic was not firmed up at the time this goes to press but it will be interesting.

MCLEPC October Meeting

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY

The next Monroe County Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting will be held on October 12, 2005, 8:30 am at 1190 Scottsville Road, Suite 200. Judy Stonehill, N2KXS, the Monroe County Emergency Coordinator for ARES will discuss the Summer Training and the Ginna Drill. Please sign in as a ham radio guest. Refreshments will be served.

October Calendar

- 7 - RaRa Meeting - 7:30 PM - Henrietta Fire Hall, 3129 East Henrietta Road
- 13 - BARK - 7:00 PM, monthly construction meeting at KC2JKV, 1140 Peck Rd, Hilton
- 14 - RVHFG - 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at Ogden Town Hall, 269 Ogden Center Rd.
- 18 - RDXA - 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at Gander Mountain, Jay Scutti Blvd, Henrietta
- 21 - RRRA - 8:00 PM monthly meeting at Pittsford Town Hall, basement meeting room.
- 27 - BARK - 7:00 PM monthly business meeting at Seymour Public Library, Brockport

November Rag Deadline
October 14, 2005

Questionnairephobia?

By George Masny, KA2GPJ
RARA Membership Secretary

Are you – like 95% of the members of RaRa suffering from this ailment? I would be happy to offer a remedy: just check one box and immediately see how much better you will feel!

But seriously, folks... Of the 500 plus application forms received, only a handful of the members put a check mark on any of the boxes. A couple of hardy souls went as far as to cut off the bottom of the form!!! Not sure why anyone in his sane mind would do that – just leave the darned thing blank if you don't want to fill it in... All it does is make it harder for me to file the silly thing...

In case you're wondering what brings on this rant... We needed another photographer for the Hamfest. I did find several volunteers, but it was disheartening to see how many of you completely ignored the:

**To better serve you, please consider the following:
I'm interested in volunteering for the following areas of activity:**

This is YOUR club, folks! Thank you for your membership application and fee, but that alone will not keep the club vibrant. In order for a club to thrive – we need everyone to get involved – and that could start with a simple check mark on your renewal form. We look forward to your membership renewal, but we most look forward to your attendance at RARA meetings and participation in various club activities. But this is YOUR organization -- its continued growth and success is dependent upon YOUR involvement.

Sidebands – Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
RARA Media Coordinator

The Aftermath of Katrina

This month Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath has gripped the nation and dominated the news. Most major news media pointed to the problems in communication by focusing on infrastructure [landlines and cellular service], and on poor

preparedness among Federal, State, and local agencies. Not many looked behind the scenes to find who, in fact, were on hand to bring basic and reliable communication to assist in relief efforts. Refreshingly, a few news sources did.

The Wall Street Journal was one such enlightened source with its article "Why the Levee Breaches in New Orleans Were Late-Breaking News." The article noted that "the breach was first publicized at 8:14 AM Monday by the New Orleans office of the National Weather Service." It goes on to state that "The source of information for the NWS was ham-radio transmission by the Orleans Lee Board, a city agency. The 8:14 warning was the last one the local office issued before its communications were cut off." [WSJ, September 12, 2005]

In an online editorial on *WXPnews*, the role of the internet in times of crisis was assessed. It was concluded that "the 'Net failed miserably as a means of emergency communications, due to its dependence on electrical power and telephone or cable lines. Luckily, as in previous crises, amateur ("ham") radio operators were able to fill in the gap." [WXPnews, "The Role of the 'Net in Times of Crisis"]

Richard Webb, NF5B, was sleeping on an air mattress in a hospital after Katrina had hit. He was awakened by a doctor who told him a pregnant woman swam in the filthy water to the hospital and needed a Caesarian section to deliver the baby. The hospital had limited emergency power and could not perform operations or even sterilize equipment. Webb got on his radio and contacted a ham who was in the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Cleveland. He worked with web to get a medevac to the hospital. The helicopter arrived in time to evacuate the woman to another medical facility. Webb lives in nearby Slidell, LA, and was summoned to his post at the hospital by its head of emergency management. [The Christian Science Monitor, Barbara W. Carlson, September 15, 2005]

Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV, who is a marketing manager for the ARRL, watched the television coverage of Hurricane Katrina helplessly. He finally had enough, and the 57-year-old packed his compact car with his ham equipment, food, water, and camping gear, then headed for Mississippi. He joined 700 other ham volunteers who had already set up emergency communications posts. He said "I'm here because of frustration, to be honest... I saw the slow response, and I was overwhelmed." He told his wife "I have to go." [Computerworld, Todd R. Weiss, September 7, 2005]

(continued on page 6)

The following activities regarding Katrina have been reported by the ARRL:

Louisiana ARES Section Emergency Coordinator Gary Stratton, K5GLS, has had some 250 ham radio operators working with the Red Cross and the state's Office of Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness. However, State officials did not allow emergency or other units to enter many areas that were still flooded, and there was still no communication with many coastal areas. Stratton says, until volunteer units can enter the flooded disaster areas "there's no place they can go yet. If everyone who has volunteered came [to New Orleans], we could fill the state. But please hold on, it's going to be a very long time [recovering] from this."

A high volume of family-related requests has slowed the passage of critical tactical and emergency traffic. The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network [SATERN] hams are now on a special frequency to accept and handle these inquiries on the air and via its Web site:

[<http://www.qso.com/satern411/emailfrm.htm>]. Hams also provide emergency communications for The American Red Cross which has established a similar 'Get Info' hotline: 1-866 GET INFO [1-866-438-4636].

Louisiana Section Manager Mickey Cox, K5MC, reported that some other Louisiana ARES teams also are in a holding pattern, awaiting word from relief agencies trying to assess what they need in terms of communication support and where, before they can officially activate. Cox also reported that Richard Webb, NF5B, from New Orleans was on the air from the Louisiana State University Hospital as of Monday [August 29] afternoon during the storm. Louisiana Assistant Section Manager Mike King, W5PY, of Slidell, remains on the air since the storm helping provide emergency communications from a hospital on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain.

"When all else fails, Amateur Radio works is more than a catchy tag line," says Mark Conklin, N7XYO. "It's a lifeline," he said late Monday [August 29] evening, after being involved in the rescue of 15 people from a rooftop.

Hams also are sending digital, written messages out of the area which are delivered as email to other parts of the country. Using a Winlink system which blends the advantages of radio and internet, the hams are passing messages out for their served agencies. They do not have the ability to receive email messages into the area at this time.

In Alabama, Section Manager Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, reports Amateur Radio SKYWARN nets were active Monday, reporting the severe weather conditions to the National Weather Service (NWS). Sarratt himself handled a volunteer shift at the Huntsville NWS office Monday [August 29] evening. He told ARRL Headquarters that ARES groups throughout the state, and especially in central and southern Alabama, have been supporting communication for local emergency management agencies and the Red Cross.

Mississippi Section Manager Malcolm Keown, W5XX, in Vicksburg, was reported on the air at different times. According to Assistant Section Manager Edwin Franks, AD5IF, Keown was using generator power, his regular antennas are all down and his area has no electrical power or telephone service. Franks also reports that he has been getting requests for information about friends and relatives from people calling him at home.

ARRL Northern Florida Section Manager Rudy Hubbard, WA4PUP, reports his section put together a team of Amateur Radio operators to assist in neighboring Mississippi, once they get clearance to go there. The Florida mutual assistance team will be coordinated through the Florida State Emergency Operations Center.

The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) ended days of operations for Hurricane Katrina. The ham radio network works in cooperation with the National Hurricane Center, and gathers ground-level weather data during storms. Forecasters use the reports to help fine-tune their predictions of a storm's behavior.

Vests & Signs Still Available

By George Masny, KA2GPJ
RARA Treasurer

While orders and payments have been coming in at a good pace there are still a number of the reduced price Vests and Magnetic Car Signs still available. RARA has ordered 30 sets of each and over 20 sets are already spoken for. If you are interested in getting in on this special sale please contact me with your order ASAP to insure that you will be in the first group. Send me a message at: ka2gpj@yahoo.com and I will include you in the group.

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